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COUNTRY: Argentina (AR)

REPORT NO: [redacted] (b)(3):10 USC 424

TITLE: Counterintelligence Review Update of Argentina (U)

DATE OF INFO: 840124 (YY MM DD) (b)(3):10 USC 424

REPORT DATE: 840126 (YY MM DD) (b)(3):10 USC 424

ORIGINATOR: [redacted]

REQ REFERENCES: [redacted]

SOURCE: [redacted] (b)(3):10 USC 424

SUMMARY: (U) This IIR forwards the update of the counterintelligence country review on Argentina for 1983 (See enclosure (1)). Included are the necessary additions, deletions and revisions.

TEXT: See Summary.

COMMENTS: None.

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SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

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PREPARED BY: (name, rank/grade, position)
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APPROVED BY: (name, rank/grade, position, signature)
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REQUEST EVALUATION: ☐Y ☒N
Request Evaluation Releasable To: None

1 ENCLOSURE(S):

1. DOCUMENT: "Country Overview of Argentina (U)", 1 copy, 840124, 4 pages ~~(S/NOFORN/NOCONTRACT/WNINTEL)~~

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ARGENTINA - AN OVERVIEW (U)

(U) Purpose: This brief provides counterintelligence information concerning the country of Argentina.

A. (U) Counterintelligence Threat

1. (U) Local Intelligence Services

~~(S/NOFORN)~~ The NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER (CNI), established to coordinate intelligence activities, includes representatives of the military intelligence services. The civilian STATE SECRETARIAT FOR INTELLIGENCE (SIDE) functions to collect and disseminate domestic and foreign intelligence, coordinate intelligence activities, and censor both foreign and domestic mail.

~~(S/NOFORN)~~ The SUPERINTENDENCY OF FEDERAL SECURITY of the FEDERAL POLICE has primary responsibility for countersubversive investigations in the federal capital and throughout the entire country on questions of national security. It is charged with penetrating COMMUNIST PARTY units and front organizations. Its DIVISION OF ALIEN AFFAIRS collects intelligence on foreign nationals in Argentina, whether in the country legally or illegally, who are considered to be threats to internal security. This division also maintains surveillance of foreign embassies, foreign journalists, secret lodges and societies, and certain religious groups.

2. (U) Local Security Forces

~~(S/NOFORN)~~ Police forces include FEDERAL POLICE, PROVINCIAL POLICE and the NATIONAL GENDARMERIE, a militarized border police force that comes under the control of the Army in times of emergency. The ARGENTINE NAVAL PREFECTURE, similar to the U.S. Coast Guard, polices water boundaries and ports, and performs certain security functions. The FEDERAL POLICE have jurisdiction over crimes of a federal nature, including political offenses and internal security violations. Each province maintains its own police force.

3. (U) USSR Intelligence Activities

~~(S/NOFORN)~~ As of April 1981, there were 44 persons (16 known or suspected intelligence personnel) assigned to the Soviet Embassy and trade mission staffs in Argentina. No intelligence collection activities targeting U.S. military personnel have been reported. Additionally, 33 PARANA MEDIO (26 engineers) hydroelectric project personnel with translators are working in Argentina. This number probably increased in 1983 with initiation of twice-weekly regular Aeroflot servic

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4. (U) People's Republic of China (PRC) Intelligence Activities

~~(S/NOFORN)~~ As of April 1981, there were 36 PRC citizens assigned to the PRC Embassy and trade mission staffs. No intelligence activities targeting U.S. personnel have been reported. Primary interest is commercial trade with the Argentine government.

5. (U) Other Third Country Intelligence Activities

~~(S/NOFORN)~~ Brazil has much interest in following Argentine affairs and probably runs an active collection program. However, there is no information to indicate that Brazil is collecting against the U.S. in Argentina. Cuban involvement with leftist subversive groups in Argentina was reported in the mid-70's. No reports of Cuban intelligence targeting of U.S. personnel have been received. However, Argentine security officials have kept Cuban officials and embassy employees under investigation.

6. (U) Other Intelligence Activity

~~(FOUO)~~ No approaches to U.S. Navy members in Argentina for intelligence purposes have been reported.

B. (U) Political Climate/Subversive Activities

1. (U) Communist and Communist Front Groups

~~(S/NOFORN)~~ The COMMUNIST PARTY OF ARGENTINA (PCA) is the orthodox Marxist party which is a faithful adherent to the international communist line as dictated by Moscow. Although it is the largest Communist party in Latin America after Cuba, it has little influence nationally or internationally. The PCA is attempting to organize a broadly based support (including labor, students and church officials) for full and open political activity. Additionally, the PCA is discouraging any terrorist activity as they believe such activity would only bring harsh, repressive measures by the junta.

2. (U) Non-Communist Dissident Groups

~~(S/NOFORN)~~ There are small non-Communist groups which have limited insurgency capabilities but offer no threat to visiting U.S. ships.

3. (U) Violence Oriented Groups Including Terrorists

~~(S/NOFORN)~~ Argentine measures to eliminate leftist terrorism

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have been very successful. Approximately 10,000 suspected terrorists were reportedly killed during 1976/79. Improved intelligence efforts have revealed the locations of terrorist safehouses and caches of arms and funds.

~~(S/NOFORN)~~ The Argentine security forces have effectively obliterated the PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY ARMY (ERP), the military action arm of the Trotskyite REVOLUTIONARY WORKER'S PARTY (PRT). The ERP has not carried out any terrorist activities in several years and there is no indication that it continues as an organized group within Argentina or abroad.

~~(S/NOFORN)~~ The MONTONEROS, a radical national liberation group, has changed its organizational name to the MONTONERO PERONIST MOVEMENT, both to expand the appeal of its Peronist origins and to emphasize its political rather than terrorist image.

4. (U) Host Government Attitudes and Political Climate

The September 1982 agreement basically prolongs the 1972 treaty until a solution is reached.

~~(S/NOFORN)~~ The general attitude of the Argentine people toward the U.S. is gradually improving following the defeat of Argentine forces by the British in the Falklands. U.S. support of the British has been perceived by many Argentines as a major factor in their defeat; however, the realities of keeping peace with its powerful northern neighbor have lessened their post-defeat rhetoric. However, it is advisable that U.S. Navy personnel avoid discussion of U.S./Argentine Policy with local citizens.

~~(S/NOFORN)~~ Elections to re-establish democratic rule in Argentina were held October 30. Radical leader Raul Alfonsín won by an ample margin, defeating Peronist candidate Italo Luder. He was inaugurated December 10. One of the new leader's main goals is that of demilitarizing the country and subordinating the military to institutional power. Alfonsín would like to see solutions to the Malvinas and Beagle sovereignity disputes, reduction of the budget deficit and curtailment of excessive inflation.

2. (U) Law Enforcement

(U) While the NAVAL PREFECTURE (Argentine equivalent to the U.S. Coast Guard) has principal authority in the ports and harbors, the ARGENTINE FEDERAL POLICE, which has jurisdiction for the majority of offenses and crimes throughout Argentina, is the police agency most likely to be encountered. Law enforcement agencies have been generally cooperative with the U.S. Embassy. Generally shore patrols should not be landed. It is recommended that a shore patrol force be maintained on board in the event of emergency. Both the local police and the Argentine Navy prefer to maintain a shore patrol themselves, and they will request liaison assistance as required.

3. (U) Drugs and Narcotics

(U) Marijuana, amphetamines, barbiturates and cocaine are not readily available on the street. Local law requires a prescription to purchase amphetamines and barbiturates in pharmacies. Enforcement of drug laws has increased and the possiiblity of spot checks, especially of foreign-appearing personnel, cannot be discounted. Possession of drugs, except by prescription, is an offense punishable under the criminal code, and penalties are severe. Imprisonment from 1 to 4 years can be expected for selling drugs. The penalty for illegal importation, possession or trafficking of narcotics in Argentina is from 1 to 6 years imprisonment. Existing laws authorize detention of suspected individuals for up to 72 hours (sometimes longer) before notification of U.S. Embassy or other authorities is required.

~~(S/NOFORN)~~ Although narcotics trafficking has substantially increased in Argentina, availability of drugs on the street is low. The availability of drugs to USN personnel at possible liberty ports are: low at Puerto Belgrano; limited at Bahia Blanca; limited at Puerto Madryn; and somewhat more accessible in Mar Del Plata and Buenos Aires.

4. (U) Crime and Punishment

(U) Crimes prevalent in port areas which could affect USN personnel are narcotics violations, assault, and gambling. Prostitution is illegal and results in penalties from 1 month to 1 year imprisonment. Conviction of rape carries a sentence of from 6 to 15 years imprisonment. Smuggling and blackmarketing penalties are unknown, but are believed to be severe.

D. (U) Port Facilities

(U) No information available.

NOTE: THE FORMAT OF THIS DOCUMENT FOLLOWS THAT OF THE UNREVISED COUNTRY OVERVIEW ON ARGENTINA. PARAGRAPH HEADING "C1" SEEMS TO BE MISSING.

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